(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to fulfil those demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) A letter dated 25th November, 1985 signed by 11 Members of Parliament was received regarding enhancement of Namrup Allowance and payment of wages to the employees of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation for the period of their absence during Assam agitation.

The quantum of Namrup Allowance was agreed to in July, 1977 with the stipulation that it would not be subject to revision in future. In view of this position, it has not been possible so far to revise the rates of Namrup Allowance.

With regard to the regularisation of absence of the empoyees during Assam agitation, the Government have laid down guidelines, according to which absence is to be regulated by grant of leave of the kind due and admissible to them. The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has been advised to take action accordingly.

Sale of Defectives by Sail

48. DR. R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of sale of 'defectives' by the Steel Authority of India Ltd., to private sector zone-wise, details for the last three years;

(b) whether the percentage increased during the last three years, if so, what are the reasons for such an increase;

(c) whether Government propose to review the policy of sale of 'defectives' by the SAIL to private sector and gradually decrease the percentage of sale to that sector; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) No zone-wise data are maintained by SAIL regarding sale of defectives to the private sector. However, the percentage sale of defectives over total sales of steel during the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Percentage of sale of defectives to the private sector over total sales
1983-84	3.6
1984-85	3.7
1985-86 [April-November 85]	3.0

(b) The percentage increased marginally during 1984-85 due to somewhat slower lifting of steel by identified actual users.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to lay down guidelines for allocation of defectives to actual users since the nature of defects varies widely from lot to lot.

Increase in Fertilisers Prices

49. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of fertiliser have been increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of times the prices of fertilizers have been raised by Government during the last five years and at what rate each time;

(d) whether it is a fact that the increase in the prices of fertilisers would adversely affect the use of fertilisers in agriculture resulting in the reduction in the production of foodgrains; and